

TV: A Defector's Story

Ex-Cp. Lowell D. Skinner, Back From
China, Is Interviewed on Channel 5

By JOHN P. SHANLEY

IN a telecast of unusual interest, a former Army corporal who defected to the Chinese Communists during the Korean war was interviewed on WNEW-TV (Channel 5) Sunday night.

He is Lowell D. Skinner, 32 years old, who returned on Aug. 9 after having lived for 10 years as a civilian in China.

With David Schoenbrun conducting the interview, Mr. Skinner talked for an hour and a quarter about his experiences after his capture in Korea in 1950.

The former soldier from Akron, Ohio, insisted that he believed he was within his rights at the time he made his decision not to be repatriated. He told in detail of his life as a worker in a paper mill and of his marriage to a Chinese girl, who remained in China when he decided to return to this country.

After his capture, Mr. Skinner said, he began to notice that while "Communist is Communist, they're also born on this planet and they're human." He added that this affected his decision to stay in China.

In proposing questions Mr. Schoenbrun did a commendable job. It is to his credit that he maintained objectivity and did not seek to conduct a hostile cross-examination of his guest.

The two-hour program also included post-interview comments by Senator Kenneth B. Keating, Allen Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Albert Biderman, psychologist. Jack Lynn was in charge of production. Al Kassel was the director of the telecast.

The program was repeated at 9 P.M. Monday.